



Connecticut River (CT, VT, NH, MA)

The Connecticut River flows 410 miles, forming the New Hampshire-Vermont state line, bisecting both Massachusetts and Connecticut, and draining an 11,260 sq. mi. watershed. The land ranges from forests and sparsely populated rural areas in the northern end, including New England's great Northern Forest, to suburbs and industrialized urban areas in southern Massachusetts and Connecticut. Ninety-nine cities and towns border the Connecticut

Blackstone-Woonasquatucket Rivers (MA, RI)

The 48-mile Blackstone River and 18-mile Woonasquatucket River flow through 26 communities with more than one million people before merging into Providence Harbor and Narragansett Bay. Populated for more than 10,000 years, the region evolved from pristine forest to agriculture to early industry. The lower half of the watershed, in the Providence, RI, metropolitan area, is now largely developed, while the upper

half is a mix of towns and rural areas. The rivers and their many mills were the catalyst for the Nation's industrial growth and development, and accordingly, the area is known as the "birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution." While industrialization produced economic prosperity, it took its toll on the health of the rivers, which suffered from industrial pollution, migratory fish blockages, and urbanization. The diverse neighbors in this watershed are now working closely together to restore the rivers, their cultural heritage, and the vitality of their communities.

RIVER PROFILES



Cuyahoga River (OH)

The 100-mile Cuyahoga begins in rural Geauga County flows south through the city of Akron before turning north to Cleveland where it empties into Lake Erie. The Port of Cleveland is the third largest port on the Great Lakes, moving cargo to and from 100 ports worldwide. The many city, state, and national parks along the river and its tributaries include the 33,000-acre Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area and the 19,000-acre Cleveland Metroparks system.



Also, from Cleveland to Zoar is the Ohio and Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor. The Cuyahoga River has been dramatically impacted by industrial pollution and habitat loss. It is also infamous for catching fire, an event which ultimately resulted in passage of the federal Clean Water Act in 1972. The AHR designation has helped regional governments working to reduce water pollution and restore the health of the natural resources in the Cuyahoga.



Detroit River (MI)

The 32-mile long Detroit River is part of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway, which extends from Duluth, Minnesota to Montreal, Canada. The Detroit River serves more than 5 million people with drinking water, recreation and cultural opportunities. It is one of the busiest ports in the Great Lakes. The river is a major bird migration corridor, supporting more than 3 million waterfowl and millions of walleye migrate there annually. Where the river empties into Lake Erie, protected wetlands support over 300 threatened and endangered species. Entering the next millennium, the Greater Detroit area is projected to be a site for sustainable renewal after decades of declining population levels.

"The Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative has leveraged over \$3 million in the first year to implement priority projects....These projects are significant because they will ultimately increase public access to our river and enhance the 'quality of life' for the residents of southeastern Michigan."

Mr. Peter Stroh, Chairman of the Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative Executive Committee.

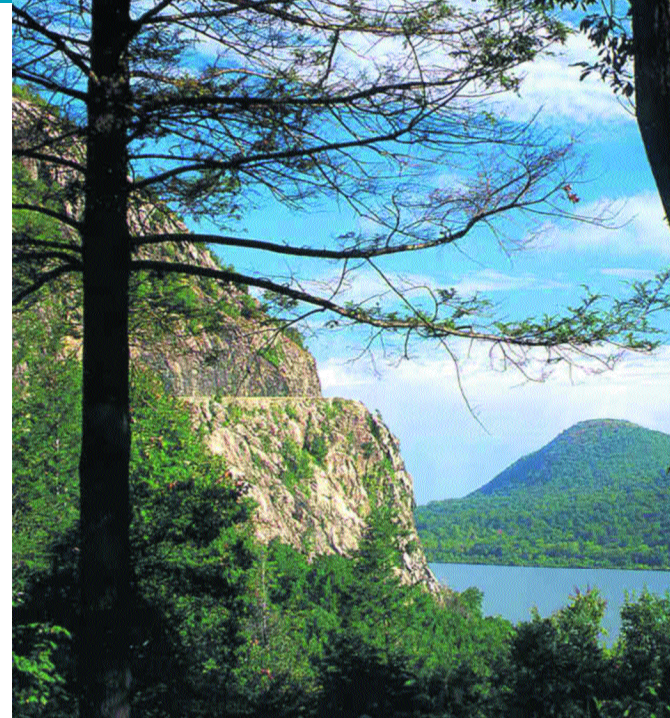
Hanalei River (HI)

The Hanalei River flows 16 miles from steep mountain peaks into flat lowlands on the north shore of the island of Kauai in Hawaii. Its watershed drains 23 square miles, containing pristine wilderness, pastures, and cropland. The river empties into crescent-shaped Hanalei Bay, renowned for its white-sand beaches, waterfalls, and rainbows, widely considered one of the most beautiful places on earth. The river is among the five largest rivers in Hawaii, and the Hanalei Bay is the third largest and most pristine in Hawaii. The river community faces unique challenges to balance competing resource needs from increased tourism, development, and sustainable agriculture.



Hudson River (NY)

The Hudson flows 315 miles from the Adirondack Mountains to New York Harbor. The river's estuary extends through the lower 154 miles of the valley. A total of 19 counties make up the AHR designated region, with a population well in excess of eight million people. Tourism and agriculture remain leading industries of the Hudson River region—about one million acres of the Hudson River Valley alone are devoted to farmland—while the Nation's financial center is located in New York City, at the mouth of the Hudson. The river also supports habitat for over 206 fish species and serves as a major flyway for migratory birds. The key feature of the action plan is to reconnect the river to its communities.



Lower Mississippi River (TN, LA, MS)

The Lower Mississippi River designation includes segments of the lower Mississippi Delta region downstream from Memphis, TN. The longest river in North America, the Mississippi drains 41 percent of the continental US; all of this runoff flows through this low-lying part of the South. The port system in the lower stretches of the Mississippi is one of the largest in the world. The Lower Mississippi is a foundation of the economy and culture of the American South, with a delta that supports some of the poorest communities in the US, but yet is renowned for its cultural, historic, and environmental assets.



Upper Mississippi River (MN,WI, IL, MI, IA)

The Mississippi River is perhaps the most renowned of America's great rivers. It is 2,340 miles long, making it the longest river in North America. The Mississippi remains a key economic link through America's heartland. The paddlewheelers of the 18th century have given way to tugs and barges, which each year move more than 90 million tons of cargo on the Upper Mississippi. The stretches of the river under Presidential designation are located in the headwaters region of Bemidji, MN, flowing through five states, ending in St. Louis, MO. Requested to be included in the designation are eight counties located at the headwaters of the Mississippi River and seven river communities downstream. The river has contributed to a rich fabric of social, economic, cultural, and natural resources and is a significant contributor to the "river renaissance" happening across the Nation's waterways.



New River (NC, VA,WV)

The New River is actually the oldest river in North America. Geologists estimate it is about 320 million years old, in place before the Appalachian Mountains were formed. The New originates in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina and flows north for 250 miles through mountains,

rolling hills and farmland, to the steep gorges of West Virginia's coal country. The watershed covers twenty-one counties in North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. The New River is one of the most rural of the American Heritage Rivers with the population density averaging 50 people per sq. mi. The New River has unique Appalachian cultural and folk heritage.



"The story of the Potomac...offers a lesson about the good that can come when governments at all levels join hands and, with the assistance of local citizenry, apply their minds, energies, and resources to a common cause."
Stephen M. Wolf, Chairman,
US Airways

Potomac River (MD, VA, WV, PA, DC)

Flowing 383 miles and draining a basin of 14,670 sq. mi., including the District of Columbia and portions of four states, the Potomac has played a key role in the Nation's history. The vast majority of the Potomac basin is rural; approximately 55 percent of the watershed is forested, with a large percentage of actively cultivated agricultural lands. The Potomac is the second largest tributary of the Chesapeake Bay, supporting significant oyster, crab, and finfish industries. Five million people live in the basin with more than half living in the greater Washington, DC area.

Rio Grande (TX)

The Rio Grande, the Nation's second largest river, has its origins in Colorado and travels almost 1,900 miles through New Mexico and Texas before emptying into the Gulf of Mexico. The Texas portion of the river, which forms the 1,250-mile international boundary with Mexico, is the designated Rio Grande AHR. The river supplies water for municipal and irrigation purposes for an estimated nine million people. Riparian and wetland habitats provide for a diversity of flora and fauna, some of which are unique to the area. State and Federal agencies provide many recreational and ecotourism opportunities as well as habitat for resident and migratory birds. Deep cut canyons provide opportunities for whitewater rafting. The communities along the border, such as Brownsville, El Paso, and Laredo, possess a rich Spanish Colonial and Mexican cultural heritage, some dating back to the late 1500's. The border communities represent some of the poorest areas in the country.



"I am pleased that the Rio Grande has been given the important designation as an American Heritage River. The Rio Grande has always been the lifeblood of the Southwest. The Rio Grande is important to the history of the borderlands as it was central to the exploration, conquest, colonization, settlement, religious conversion, and military occupation of the Southwest. This river continues to be important to the cultural history and rich heritage of the Southwest."

US Representative Silvestre Reyes (D-TX)



St. Johns River (FL)

The St. Johns River is the longest river in Florida and one of only a few rivers in the Nation that flow north. During its entire 310-mile course, draining one-sixth of Florida (8,700 sq. mi.) the river drops only 30 feet. The river flows from its headwaters in marshes southwest of Cape Canaveral, evolving into a series of lakes, finally maturing into a river averaging 2 miles in width for its final one hundred miles into Jacksonville and the Atlantic Ocean. Jacksonville is the largest city along its banks. The area's industrial base includes two major Navy bases, banking, insurance, and agriculture (vegetables, citrus, ferns, etc.). Interest in reducing the impacts of population growth and development on natural resources is great in the St. Johns watershed.

"To me, what has been the most exciting is that local elected officials, civic leaders, chamber leaders and environmental leaders are rallying around this jewel that we have."

Henry Dean, Executive Director of the St. Johns River Water Management District

Upper Susquehanna-Lackawanna (PA)



The Susquehanna and Lackawanna rivers are located in the anthracite region of northeastern Pennsylvania, forming two of the most scenic valleys in the country. The Susquehanna is one of the Nation's largest rivers, and provides more than half of the freshwater flow into the Chesapeake Bay. The most pressing problems facing the communities along these rivers are water quality problems caused by acid mine drainage, which is a large contributor of pollution into the Chesapeake Bay. Reclamation of mine-scarred lands is a major feature of the community plan of action.

Willamette River (OR)



The Willamette River begins in the Cascade Mountains and flows 187 miles through northwestern Oregon to the Pacific Ocean, draining a watershed area of 11,460 sq. mi. The Willamette plays a key role in Oregon's economy, which historically was heavily based on timber harvesting, but in recent years has become more diversified and service-oriented. Approximately 70 percent of the Oregon's population live within the Willamette basin. The river is the tenth largest river in the continental US in terms of volume of water. More than two million people live in the Willamette basin. It faces serious pollution threats from municipal and industrial sources of pollution. Current restoration strategies focus on nonpoint